

Message Text

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14-12
ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INSE-00

OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 VO-03 SCA-01 /075 W
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O P 141010Z AY 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9882
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 554
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
COMSEVENTHFLT PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2659

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, VN, MY
SUBJ: REPORT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES - GLOMAR CONCEPTION

REF: A. KL 2630; B. KL 2616; C. STATE 107160

1. OFFICIAL OF ESSO EXPLORATION MALAYSIA INFORMED EMBASSY
AFTERNOON MAY 14 THAT A 40-FOOT FISHING BOAT WITH 72 VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES, 34 CHILDREN -- 10 UNDER A YEAR OLD -- HAS APPROACHED
THE DRILLING RIG GLOMAR CONCEPTION (LAT 5 DEG 31 MIN 58.8 SEC
NORTH; LONG 105 DEG 3 MIN 2.8 SEC EAST) FOR ASSISTANCE.
MASTER OF WORK BOAT "DEFENDER" BELONGING TO OFFSHORE LOGISTICS
CORPORATION AND BASED IN SINGAPORE AND RIG MASTER INSPECTED FISH-
ING BOAT AND FOUND IT TO BE WITHOUT FOOD, WATER,
COMPASS OR QUALIFIED CAPTAIN AND WITH INSUFFICIENT FUEL.
NO DISEASE ON BOARD BUT CHILDREN AFFECTED BY EXPOSURE.
WHILE INTENDED DESTINATION OF BOAT WAS SINGAPORE,
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IN MASTERS' JUDGMENT CONDITION OF BOAT SO BAD THAT IT SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT ESCORT.

2. ESSO EXPLORATION OFFICER HERE CONTACTED HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY OF GOM FOR ASSISTANCE AND WERE PUT IN TOUCH WITH MALAYSIAN NAVY. MALAYSIAN NAVY TOLD THEM IT COULD NOT BE OF ASSISTANCE AS IT HAS NO SHIPS NEARER THAN 12 HOURS STEAMING.

3. ALTHOUGH COMPANY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO TURN BOAT LOOSE TO PROCEED TO MALAYSIAN COAST (136 MILES DUE EAST OF RIG), IT JUDGEMENT OF BOTH MASTERS THAT THIS WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE ACT AND AT THEIR RECOMMENDATION DEFENDER WITH REFUGEES IS TOWING FISHING BOAT TO SINGAPORE WATERS. ACCORDING TO SOURCE DEFENDER DEPARTING RIG AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS LOCAL MAY 14 FOR WHAT USUALLY IS 36 HOUR TRIP, BUT FISHING BOAT CAPABLE OF MAKING ONLY THREE KNOTS AND OFFICIAL UNSURE WHETHER TRIP CAN BE COMPLETED BEFORE 72 HOURS. HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY SINGAPORE AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE BE INFORMED OF THIS SITUATION.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO SOURCE, DEFENDER HAS BEEN ORDERED RELOAD REFUGEES INTO FISHING BOAT OFF SINGAPORE AND NOT TO PROCEED INTO PORT WITH THEM. IN VIEW OF REPORTED CONDITION OF BOAT AND CHILDREN, AND FACT "DEFENDER" IS US-FLAG VESSEL, STRONGLY RECOMMEND EMB SINGAPORE BE AUTHORIZED INFORM ESSO EXPLORATION AND SINGAPORE GOVT U.S. WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUGEES PER REF C SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE FORCED BACK TO SEA.

UNDERHILL

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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